

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 5, and 7 -13 remain in the case. Claim 7 and 9 are amended. Claim 14 is cancelled.

Claims 1 - 4, 8 - 12, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakata et al. (U. S. Patent No. 4,979,404) in view of Mansel (U. S. Patent No. 4,118,134). The rejection of the claims under 103(a) is traversed. The Examiner alleges that Nakata et al. shows and discloses a gear housing cover having an access opening for supporting a thrust member. Claim 1 requires a separate access opening on a side facing away from the crank. Nakata et al. does not show or disclose a separate access opening. In Figures 8a and 8b in Nakata, an adjusting screw 19 is shown in the gear housing cover on a side facing away from the crank. However, the adjusting screw 19 is not an opening to the second end of the output shaft. Further, claim 1 requires that the separate access opening on the side facing away from the crank is for supporting a second end of the output shaft during the press fit operation. The adjusting screw mechanism 19 (shown more clearly in Figure 8b) is mounted on the cover plate 5c of the casing. By rotating the adjusting screw 19, the worm wheel 10 is moved in an axial direction. Nakata does not show or disclose a separate access opening in the gear housing cover on the side facing away from the crank capable for supporting a second end of the output shaft. Therefore, claim 1 is believed to be distinguished over Nakata et al.

Claim 8 is distinguished from the cited prior art in that neither Nakata et al. nor Mansel disclose supporting the second end of the output shaft through an access opening in the gear housing cover facing away from the crank.

Claim 9 now also includes the limitation of claim 14 and is distinguished from Nakata and Mansel for the same reasons as claim 1; and further that Nakata does not show or disclose a separate cover which closes the access opening..

Claims 1 - 4, 8 - 12, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buchanan Jr. et al. (U. S. Patent No. 4,979,404) in view of Mansel (U. S. Patent No. 4,118,134). The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §

103(a) as being unpatentable over Buchanan Jr. et al. in view of Mansel is traversed. Claim 1 requires that the gear housing is disposed between and adjacent to the crank and the gear mechanism. The cover 62 includes the generally cylindrical barrel 68 in Buchanan Jr. et al. As can be seen in Figure 3, the cover 68 is not disposed between the crank 32 and the gear mechanism. The wiper arm 32 extends over a portion of the barrel 68. The wiper arm 32 in Buchanan is not the same as a crank as disclosed and claimed in the present invention. Therefore, the windshield wiper transmission as disclosed in Buchanan is not analagous to the present invention. In addition, the configuration of the Buchanan wiping device is similar to that of Blanchet et al. (U. S. Patent No. 5,622,077) previously discussed in the Amendment filed November 12, 2004. In Blanchet et al., the output shaft 10 was mounted within the sleeve 11 that was situated at the base of the casing or gear housing and extending away from the gear housing. It was argued that the crank in Blanchet et al. was spaced from the gear housing and not positioned adjacent to the gear housing. In Buchanan, the barrel 68 is similar to the sleeve 11 in Blanchet wherein the barrel 68 extends away from the gear housing so that the wiper arm in Buchanan is spaced from the gear housing and not positioned adjacent to the gear housing. Further, claim 1 requires a gear housing enclosing the gear mechanism and a gear housing cover disposed on the gear housing. In Buchanan, as stated in the specification in columns 2, lines [63] and extending to column 3 to line [19], the gear housing is disclosed as items 50 and 58. The gear housing cover is disclosed as item 62. The gear housing cover 62 does not have a separate access opening on the side facing away from the wiper arm for supporting a second end of the output shaft during the press fit operation. Therefore, claim 1 is distinguished from the Buchanan disclosure.

Claim 8 is distinguished from the prior art disclosure in that neither Buchanan nor Mansel discloses supporting the second end of the output shaft facing away from the crank through an access opening in the gear housing cover. Claim 9 is distinguished from Buchanan for the same reasons as claim 1 and that Buchanan et al. does not disclose a separate cover for the access opening. A rotary potentiometer at the end of the shaft in Buchanan is not the same as a cover over an access opening.

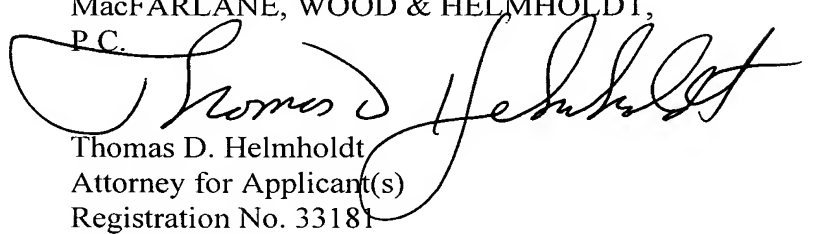
The allowability of claim 7 is noted. Claim 7 has now been amended to be rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 5 and 7.

It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment traverses and overcomes all of the Examiner's objections and rejections to the application as originally filed. It is further submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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